

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes amendments to Fig. 2. In particular, each of steps 202-212 has been amended to delete "and so forth". The attached replacement sheet, which contains Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet containing Fig. 2.

REMARKS

Regarding the Final Office Action:

In the Office Action,¹ the Examiner took the following actions:

- (a) objected to Fig. 2 because the phrase “and so forth” is vague and ambiguous;
- (b) rejected claims 1, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kameda (Kameda, Y. and S. Yorozu, “Automatic Josephson-Transmission-Line Routing for Single-Flux-Quantum Cell-Based Logic Units”, IEEE Transactions on Applied Superconductivity, June 2003, Vol. 13, Issue 2, pp. 519-522 - “Kameda”);
- (c) rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kameda in view of Muddu (Muddu, S. et al. “Repeater and Interconnect Strategies for High-Performance Physical Design”, Proc. XI Brazilian Symposium on IC Design, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, 1998, pp. 226-231 - “Muddu”); and
- (d) allowed claims 8-10, 13-15 and 18-20, and further stated that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Amendments:

Applicants propose to amend Fig. 2 and claim 1, and cancel claims 2 and 3.

Upon entry of this Amendment After Final, claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 13-15 and 18-20 will remain pending and under current examination.

Objection of Fig. 2:

The Examiner alleged that “Figure 2 is objected to because the phrase ‘and so forth’ is vague and ambiguous”. Applicants do not agree with the Examiner’s assertion.

¹ The Office Action contains statements characterizing the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statements are specifically identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statements in the Office Action.

However, to advance prosecution, Applicants propose amending Fig. 2 to delete the phrase "and so forth". A replacement sheet containing Fig. 2 so amended is attached.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kameda:

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 4 under § 102(a) as anticipated by Kameda. However, to advance prosecution, Applicants propose amending claim 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 2, and cancelling claims 2 and 3. As a result, claims 1 and 4 should be allowable. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), and the allowance of claim 1. Applicants also request allowance of claim 4, at least by virtue of its dependence from base claim 1.

Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kameda in view of Muddu:

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 5 under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Muddu. Applicants submit that in view of claim 5 indirectly depending from claim 1, claim 5 should be rendered allowable by the proposed amendment to claim 1.

Applicants therefore request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and allowance of claim 5, at least by virtue of its indirect dependence from claim 1.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 13-15 and 18-20 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10,

13-15 and 18-20 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Applicants also submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

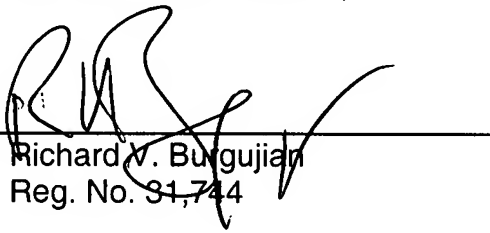
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 20, 2007

By: _____


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Attachment: Replacement sheet containing Fig. 2